

Injury Prevention Network Region IX Newsletter

Fall 2003 Number 11

IN THIS ISSUE:

Updates from Nevada
Updates from Hawaii
Updates from California
National News of Interest
Upcoming Conferences and Events

*Don't forget to
send your
updates for the
Winter 2003
newsletter!*

UPDATES: NEVADA

Nevada Injury Prevention Program

Nevada's Injury Prevention Program recently completed a nine-month study of all database systems throughout the state. Those that dealt with injury were linked together to analyze the databases strengths, weaknesses and gaps. Overall, the assessment confirmed that Nevada has a number of excellent databases available to serve as the foundation of an effective injury surveillance system. While a strong foundation exists, Nevada's individual databases do not yet form a cohesive system and do not comprehensively address the issue of injuries due to a number of gaps. Based on the assessment, there were several recommendations made to develop Nevada's individual databases into an effective injury surveillance system.

In the coming year, Nevada will be addressing those recommendations and making the changes needed to have an effective injury surveillance system.

UPDATES: HAWAII

Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition (KIPC)

KIPC will be working with its community partners to pass the booster seat bill in 2004. Ho'owaiwai Na Kamali'i has agreed to be an advocate to help inform the community about CPS issues and to get community support for the legislation. A focal point for getting community support for the booster seat bill will be the Waianae Neighborhood Board and Town Meetings. The process of building momentum for the CPS legislation is also an opportunity to strengthen our partnership in Waianae and add to the efforts of the car seat inspection site at the Waianae Comprehensive Health Care Center. * U. H. Volleyball player Tony Ching is committed to testify on behalf of new helmet legislation in Hawai'i. The Honolulu Advertiser has also indicated that it will advocate for such legislation in the upcoming session. For more information on legislative efforts, contact Eric Tash at 586-5942 or Therese Argoud at 586-5941.

UPDATES: CALIFORNIA

California Emergency Medical Services News

Rural Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Funding

The EMS Authority has been awarded an Office of Rural Health Policy Automated External Defibrillator (AED) grant for the 03/04 fiscal year. This grant is to provide funds for eligible rural community partners to purchase AEDs, supplies and training. It is too late to apply for this year's funding, but we expect this grant to be funded next year by Congress. Interested parties should go to the Office of Rural Health Policy website www.hrsa.gov and click on Office of Rural Health Policy for more information.

Statewide Medical & Health Disaster Exercise

It is time again for the Statewide Medical & Health Disaster Exercise. This is California's fifth annual exercise incorporating hospitals and other healthcare providers, including long-term care facilities and clinics, pre-hospital care providers, auxiliary communication networks, blood banks and local and regional governmental agencies. This year, we are inviting and encouraging local public health departments to participate in this biological terrorism exercise. The last couple of years, the exercise has focused on "man-made" disasters that confront emergency managers and the healthcare community. This year, the Exercise Planning Committee has designed the scenario to include issues and challenges that would confront the State should a biological terrorism event occur in California. The exercise was conducted on November 13, 2003, from 1600 (4:00 p.m.) until 2000 (8:00 p.m.) The scenario staged the exposure event to occur on Monday, November 10, 2003, and the healthcare system responds to overwhelming numbers of patients presenting with symptoms, building up to the beginning of the exercise. To learn more, go to www.emsa.ca.gov/dms2/Exercise_Guidebook_2003.doc

State Emergency Medical Services Plan

The Emergency Medical Services Authority has written the draft State Emergency Medical Services Plan. The Plan is available for review on the EMS Authority's website, www.emsa.ca.gov and is currently open for comment during a 30-day public comment period, from October 14 to November 14, 2003. This Plan will assist in achieving system standardization, streamlining field operations, and continuing the EMS Authority's commitment to comprehensive planning for EMS statewide. This plan establishes and incorporates the recommendations, goals, objectives, and action plans that will institute the necessary changes to California's EMS system to ensure continued growth and improvement. As its separate objectives are accomplished, the plan will help link the numerous programs together into one coordinated statewide EMS system.

September EMS Commission Meeting

The September EMS Commission meeting was canceled; the December meeting will be held on two days, December 9th from 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. and December 10th from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in San Francisco at the Marines' Memorial Club (pending confirmation).

Reducing Impaired Driving and Increasing Seat Belt Use among Youth of Color

Through a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) contract, Prevention Institute developed the Youth Educational Program (YEP) to increase awareness and activism about traffic safety among youth of color. The purpose of YEP is to empower young people with information and tools to provide leadership in developing community solutions to reduce injuries and deaths from traffic crashes. The goal of this program is to stimulate leadership and activism among youth of color and community-based organizations working with ethnically diverse youth. Based on current research, a series of interviews, with professionals who work with youth, and facilitated discussions with youth, Prevention Institute developed a toolkit for multi-ethnic youth, *Safe on the Streets: Cars, Seatbelts and Drinking*.

We are currently looking for youth groups and organizations to pilot the toolkit. If you are interested in learning more about the project or becoming a pilot site, please contact Danice Cook, BA (510.444.7738 or danice@preventioninstitute.org) or Manal J. Aboelata, MPH (323.296.5750 or manal@preventioninstitute.org).

NATIONAL NEWS OF INTEREST

U.S. Transportation Secretary Mineta Announces Record-Level Safety Belt Use

During the month of August, U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta announced that safety belt use in the United States has reached 79 percent – the highest level in the nation's history. According to NHTSA estimates, the increase in belt use this year will translate into more than 1,000 lives saved each year the gains are sustained. In addition, the costs to society are reduced by at least \$3.2 billion.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/nhtsa/announce/press/pressdisplay.cfm?year=2003&filename=pr39-03.html>

Black Entertainment Network (BET) and National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration Partnership Raises Awareness in Traffic and Seat Belt Safety

BET's two-year partnership with NHTSA to promote seatbelt safety awareness made great strides increasing seatbelt safety awareness and seatbelt usage among African Americans. Current NHTSA surveys indicate that African Americans currently use safety belts 77% of the time, an eight percent increase since 2000 according to a recent 2003 NHTSA survey. This large increase in seatbelt use can in part be attributed to the strong efforts of the Strap It On campaign that reached thousands of African Americans every day and had a direct impact on seatbelt safety choices and actions.

For more information, visit: http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/030911/dcth035_1.html

Road Safety is the Theme for World Health Day 2004

Every year on April 7 the World Health Organization celebrates World Health Day. This year the theme for World Health Day was road safety. The objectives for this year World Health Day included: Raise awareness about the health impact, social & economic costs of Road Traffic Injuries (RTI's); Highlight the particular vulnerabilities of certain groups of road users; and Issue a call for action to increase efforts to prevent RTIs.

For more information, visit: <http://www.who.int/world-health-day/2004/flyer/en/>

Public Information Education and Relations for EMS – Injury Prevention Modules

NHTSA first published the Public Information Education and Relations (PIER) National Standard Curriculum in 1986, with subsequent revisions serving as a tool to advance EMS System functions at the State and local levels. The PIER Injury Prevention Modules are part one of a two-part revision of PIER, and focus specifically on comprehensive primary injury prevention as practiced by EMS personnel.

If you would like a copy of the Injury Prevention Modules please fax your orders to (202) 366-7721. The manual will also be available for faxed orders from the general public at NHTSA's Resource Center, at (301) 386-2194.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

83rd Transportation Research Board Meeting (TRB)

Date: January 11-15, 2004

Location: Washington, DC

For more information, contact:

Keck Center of the National Academies

Transportation Research Board

Phone: (202) 334-2934

Web: <http://www4.trb.org/trb/annual.nsf>

3rd Annual New Partners for Smart Growth: Building Safe, Healthy, and Livable Communities

Date: January 22-24, 2004

Location: Portland, Oregon

For more information, contact:

Michele Kelso, Senior Program Officer

Local Government Commission

Phone: (916) 448-1198

E-mail: mkelso@lgc.org

Web: <http://www.outreach.psu.edu/C&I/Smartgrowth/>